

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 NEA-10 EUR-12 ACDA-07 ARA-10 EA-10
DHA-05 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /127 W
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R 201525Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0009

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 2406

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN GB

SUBJECT: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: A. STATE 205678, B. STATE 212371

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY MADE POINTS REFTEL (A) AT MFA
SEPTEMBER 16. WHILE UNLIKELY THAT DEMARCHE WILL
INFLUENCE GOG UN DELEGATION, IT SHOULD BE USEFUL IN
EDUCATING GOG OFFICIALS WHO WILL ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT
BONGO TO UNGA. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, SYLVESTRE
RATANGA, HAD ALREADY DEPARTED FOR NEW YORK TO JOIN
THE GABONESE UN DELGATION BY THE TIME FRENCH TRANSLATION
TALKING POINTS REFTEL (B) ARRIVED. IN THE ABSENCE OF
ANYONE ELSE REASONABLY COMPETENT IN UN MATTERS BELOW
MINISTERIAL LEVEL, CHARGE WENT OVER TALKING POINTS
SEPTEMBER 16 WITH SAMUEL NZE-OBAME, SPECIAL COUNSELOR
TO THE PRESIDENT FOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT MFA. NZE-
OBAME TOOK NOTES, MADE ONLY INFREQUENT COMMENTS AND
REQUESTED A COPY OF TALKING POINTS "TO TRANSMIT TO THE
MINISTER" WHICH CHARGE HANDED OVER WITH EXCEPTION OF
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THOSE ON KOREA AND KEY NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. WE CONSIDER
THAT THE SESSION WAS MORE FOR THE RECORD THAN
FOR INFLUENCING GABON'S UN DELEGATION. WE DO BELIEVE,
HOWEVER, USG POSITIONS WILL GET TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER
WHO WILL ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT BONGO TO THE UN IN MID-
OCTOBER. SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS REPORT NZE-OBAME'S
REACTION TO SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH, UNLESS SO OTHERWISE

NOTED, CAN BE TAKEN AS REFLECTING OFFICIAL GOG POSITIONS.

3. MIDDLE EAST: NZE-OBAMA EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S AND SECRETARY VANCE'S CLOSE PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT WITH MIDDLE EASTERN NEGOTIATIONS REMARKING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S INITIATIVES WERE ON CORRECT TRACK. NZE-OBAMA STATED THAT PALESTINIANS MUST BE REPRESENTED IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS FOR A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

4. CYPRUS: NZE-OBAMA HAD NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT EXCEPT TO EXPRESS THE PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT THE PASSING OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS MIGHT PERMIT THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS TO BE MORE TRANSIGENT.

5. SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES: CONVERSATION DRIFTED OVER US-UK RHODESIAN WHITE PAPER PROPOSALS. NZE-OBAMA RE-ITERATED THAT GOG CONSIDERED SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT AT THE 32ND UNGA.

6. DISARMAMENT: NZE-OBAMA COMMENTED ONLY THAT THE ESSENTIAL GOAL WAS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR ARMS AND TO REDUCE THE THREAT THAT SUCH ARMS BE USED BY COUNTRIES ALREADY POSSESSING THEM.

8. PUERTO RICO AND GUAM: IN BOTH CASES NZE-OBAMA EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL OBSERVATION THT THE USG HAD RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION THEREBY FULFILLING ITS FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATIONS.

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NIZED AND PERMITTED THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION THEREBY FULFILLING ITS FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATIONS.

9. KOREA: NOT DISCUSSED.

10. HUMAN RIGHTS: NZE-OBAMA STRONGLY APPLAUDED THE MORAL LEADERSHIP NOW BEING EXERCISED BY THE US. HE NOTED THAT US PRESSURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS MIGHT NOT BE AS IMPORTANT AS THE TONE NOW BEING SET BY THE WORLD'S STRONGEST POWER THEREBY PERMITTING OTHER STATES TO TAKE A STRONGER MORAL POSITION. SPECIFIC ISSUES LISTED TALKING POINTS NOT DISCUSSED IN DEPTH.

11. UN MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET: NZE-OBAMA NOTED USG INTEREST IN HOLDING DOWN UN EXPENSES, REMARKED THAT MANY COUNTRIES DO NOT PAY THEIR JUST SHARE OR ARE IN ARREARS AND OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO HAVE ANY EFFECTIVE UN REFORM BECAUSE OF SO MANY COMPETING VESTED INTERESTS.

12. NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE--CIEC FOLLOW-UP: THIS ISSUE PROVOKED THE LONGEST AND MOST ANIMATED RESPONSE FROM

NZE-OBAMA ALTHOUGH OF LITTLE SUBSTANCE. HE REPEATED AGAIN AND AGAIN THE DISAPPOINTMENT FELT BY THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES OVER THE OUTCOME OF THE CIEC AND THE "EXPLOSIVE" POTENTIAL IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE. PERHAPS REFLECTING AN AREA OF SPECIAL SENSITIVITY TO THE GOG AT THE PRESENT TIME, NZE-OBAMA HAMMERED ON THE NECESSITY FOR THIRD WORLD DEBT RESCHEDULING. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION DOING ANYTHING IN UN CONTEXT, IT WAS CLEAR THAT GABON WOULD ALIGN ITSELF FULLY WITH THE G-77.

13. OTHER ITEMS: OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES NOT DISCUSSED ALTHOUGH CHARGE HANDED OVER FRENCH TRANSLATION TALKING POINTS ON OMNIBUS "ASSESSMENT," NEW INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. YATES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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SAS ID: 1209978
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Subject: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, GB, UN
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/769e0a42-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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